



## EPA Environmental News

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March 6, 1991

### SETTLEMENT REACHED FOR CLEANUP OF SULLIVAN'S LEDGE

BOSTON - The federal and state governments announced today that fourteen companies have agreed to pay for and conduct the first portion of the cleanup at the Sullivan's Ledge Superfund Site in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Under the terms of the Consent Decree, a legal document formalizing the agreement, the companies will design and construct the \$10.5 million remedy and assume responsibility for its operation and maintenance for up to 30 years. The companies also agreed to pay EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for oversight costs and past costs totaling up to \$2.2 million.

EPA Regional Administrator Julie Belaga announced, "EPA is delighted with the terms of the settlement. Everyone benefits when private parties agree to perform the cleanup themselves."

DEP Commissioner Daniel Greenbaum said he was, "pleased that the department, together with EPA, has been successful in obtaining a commitment from the responsible companies. The settlement is in line with the state's efforts to create a level playing field for all industries in Massachusetts."

Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger noted that, "This Consent Decree is a significant step towards ensuring that the cleanup is done effectively and efficiently with satisfactory long-term environmental results."

The fourteen companies which signed the Consent Decree generated waste found at Sullivan's Ledge. They are: Acushnet Company, AMCA International Corp, Amtel, Inc., AVX Corporation, Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., Brittany Dyeing & Printing Corp., Chamberlain Manufacturing Corp., Commonwealth Electric Company, Commonwealth Gas Company, Emhart Industries, Inc., The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Gulf & Western, Inc., and Teledyne Rodney Metals.

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Nine other parties which are potentially responsible for contamination at Sullivan's Ledge, including the City of New Bedford, Cornell Dubilier Electronics, and Federal Pacific Electric Corporation, are not part of the Consent Decree. EPA and DEP will continue to pursue these parties for investigation and cleanup costs.

The remedy for the first portion of cleanup was selected in June of 1989 and includes the following: 1) excavation and solidification of contaminated soils and sediment from a golf course stream and from golf course water hazards, 2) construction of an eleven acre cap over the disposal area through the waste, 3) a system to prevent contaminated groundwater from entering the stream, 4) wells to extract contaminated groundwater from the bedrock, 5) treatment of contaminated groundwater, 6) long term monitoring, 6) wetlands restoration, and 7) institutional controls to prevent the use of contaminated groundwater for drinking and interference with the cap.

The design and construction of the this remedy should take approximately 3 years. EPA is currently conducting an investigation for the second portion of the cleanup, focusing on a wetlands area of the site known as Middle Marsh. This investigation should be completed by Summer of 1991.

Sullivan's Ledge is located near the intersection of Route 140 and Route 195 in northwestern New Bedford. The site consists of a 12-acre disposal area where four former quarry pits were filled with wastes. Other contaminated areas on the site include an nearby stream, a golf course owned by the city of New Bedford, and Middle Marsh.

The former granite quarry ceased operation in 1932, and from about 1935 through the 1970's, Sullivan's Ledge was used for disposal of industrial wastes generated by local industries. The City of New Bedford acquired the site in 1935 in a tax foreclosure and began to operate the Ledge as a dump for local industrial waste and solid waste, such as cars. Wastes were dumped directly into the quarry pits, which extended as far as 150 feet into the bedrock. The quarry pits have since been filled completely and are covered with soil.

The Remedial Investigation, completed by EPA in 1989, indicated significant contamination of site soil, groundwater and sediment. Contaminants included volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soil, and PCBs in sediments. None of the area residents are currently using the site's contaminated groundwater as a drinking water source.

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